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Action

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TO: Secretary of State

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President De Valera received my presentation President Kennedy's message with sympathetic understanding. Said under circumstances did not see that Kennedy had any alternative but to take steps he has initiated. Explained would be up to Prime Minister Lemass and Irish Government to make decisions, although they would, of course, consult him. I was very much encouraged that we will receive Irish support in SC on basis De Valera's reaction. Deputy Prime Minister Macentee received me on behalf government for my presentation President's message. Macentee said our two countries had always been friendly and he looked to continuation this relationship. He would inform his colleagues of our request for support in the Security Council and in the program we had set forth with regard to the Cuban crisis and would be in touch with me later. He asked specifically if I could let him know whether a copy of President's speech had been made available any other governments before using given GOI, and, if so, to which governments and how much sooner.

Acting Secretary EXTAFf informed DCM had heard from SECEXTAFf Cremin in Bonn accompanying Prime Minister Lemass on State Visit who said Aiken had phoned Lemass and that Irish Government received our request sympathetically. Lemass will be talking with Aiken later in morning and we will be informed

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further.

Wish stress importance USUN working with MINEXTAFF Aiken as his recommendation will be almost decisive in any decision by Prime Minister.

Radio Eireann carried President's speech at Midnight last night and all Dublin morning newspapers carried full text. Irish press headlined "US To Blockade Cuba". Two leading Dublin morning opposition papers carried sympathetic editorials, Government ~~IRISH~~ PRESS had full and friendly treatment but no editorial. IRISH INDEPENDENT held President Kennedy's "case of self-defense remains unshaken...we can hardly do less than admit extensive justice in what he has committed himself to do". IRISH TIMES concerned about danger of blockade as Russians unlikely accept search by Americans on High Seas "y ~~ever~~ what other way ~~was~~ there to prevent use of Cuba as missile base? There was none." Embassy's preliminary survey indicates Irish opinion feels President Kennedy did what he had to do.

MCCLOSKEY

HMR/10

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